TUMPSUP From marshmallows to popcorn garnishes, these 9 fall cocktails are filled to the brim with surprises 18-19 Friday NOVEMBER 7, 2014 Booty call? Hang up 32 Grading Wallenda on a curve 3 Time for Bears to Pack a punch 12

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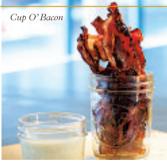
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Wire fraud? Students double-check Nik Wallenda's incline figures

Chicago Tribune

Millions watched Sunday on TV as Nik Wallenda set a world record in Chicago by walking on a tightrope at a 19-degree incline from Marina City's west tower to the Leo Burnett Building.

But when a class of 10th- and 11th-grade math students at Hinsdale South High School in Darien took a closer look, the numbers didn't seem to add up.

The mystery began Monday when math teacher Linda Korbus gave the class what she considered to be a fun assignment figuring out how the Wallenda team had calculated the incline of the tightrope.

Using dimensions supplied by the Discovery Channel, which sponsored Wallenda's walk, the students pulled out their protractors, compasses and rulers and got to work on the trigonometry.

If Discovery's height of Marina City is 588 feet, and its height of the Leo Burnett Building is 671 feet, and Wallenda walked a total of 454 feet, what was the incline?

Instead of 19 degrees, they came up with 10.5 degrees. And they were correct.

"I was expecting the grand reveal of 19 degrees, since professional engineers had worked on this. When it came out lower, I couldn't believe it," said Korbus, who immediately pulled out her own pencil to do the math. "Using the numbers they gave us, it just couldn't be true."

DOING THE MATH ON WALLENDA'S WALK

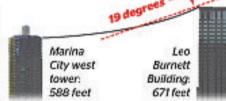
ASSUMED INCLINE

When calculated as though the tightrope is a straight line using the heights given by the Discovery Channel, the incline adds up to 10.5 degrees, far below the 19 degrees reported by Discovery.



ACTUAL INCLINE

In reality, the tightrope hangs downward due to gravity and guy wires attached to stabilize it. Making a curved line, the official incline was measured where the tightrope connected to the Leo Burnett building, where the incline was steepest.



SOURCES: DISCOVERY CHANNEL, WALLENDA FAMILY

The students and the teacher were puzzled. Perhaps Wallenda had landed on an elevated platform on top of the roof, the students surmised. Or maybe the building dimensions or the length of the walk were wrong.

As it turned out, no one was wrong. There was one crucial fact that Korbus' math class didn't factor in: Tightropes aren't straight. Thanks to gravity, they dip in the middle, like a chain attached to two posts. So instead of measuring it as a right triangle, Wallenda's engineers measured it as a parabola.

Another factor the students didn't consider is that stabilizer wires are attached to the wire to hold it in place. On Wallenda's tightrope, there were 18 pairs of smaller guy wires running from the tightrope to concrete barriers stationed on the ground. The guy wires kept the high wire from swinging wildly as

Wallenda made his trek across, and they also pulled the wire down.

TRIBUNE

According to Mike Troffer, Wallenda's uncle and chief engineer, the tightrope starts out in a catenary curve but as tension is added to the guy wires, the tightrope slopes into more of a parabolic arc.

"We don't have it simply suspended between two points, we have stabilizers that cause the radius of the curve. The stabilizers pull down on the rope, and the bend becomes steeper," Troffer said.

While the city of Chicago gave the Wallendas the freedom to rig the wire as they saw fit, there were load restrictions put in place by the owners of Marina City and the Leo Burnett Building.

On Marina City, the wire was tied to existing steel bolts that formerly anchored televi-

sion towers. The wire was tied to a steel beam that already was in place on the Leo Burnett Building.

When designing the tightrope, 'froffer said he figured out how much tension could be placed on the wire without breaking the anchors. But when Wallenda inspected the tightrope hours before his walk, he wanted more tension added.

So what initially would be a 16-degree incline became a 19-degree incline, Troffer said.

"Nik got out there to check and he was not pleased with how tight some of the stabilizers were," Troffer said. "He corrected it, but the consequence was that it pulled harder on the rope and it bent more and more."

A representative from Guinness World Records was on the roof as Wallenda took the walk, but no one from the record-keeping group could be reached for comment on the incline. In addition to setting a world record for the highest incline tightrope walk, Wallenda also set a world record for the highest blindfolded tightrope walk.

Still, Korbus and her students plan to go back to the drawing board to delve further into the math.

"The trouble with giving a group of math teachers a problem is that they grab onto it like a dog to a bone," said Korbus, who has been teaching math for 30 years. "If you model it as a parabola, then there was a moment of time where the incline was 19 degrees, but no way could the average degree incline have been 19 degrees. It would have been much lower."















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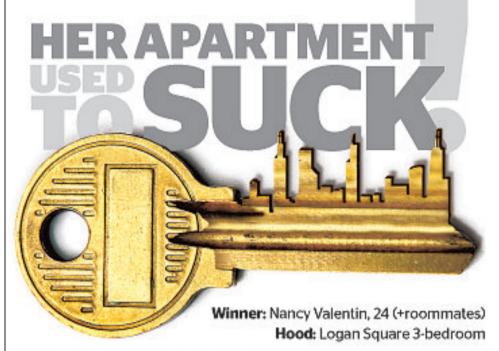
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the chatter / JOIN THE CONVERSATION



It's over! After several rounds of voting, readers declared whose Chicago abode needed the most help from our My Apartment Sucks contest. Congrats, Nancy! Read more about her current living situation, below.



What would you say is the worst thing about the current state of your apartment?

My first set of roommates have moved on to bigger and better things. Their furniture moved with them, too, so right now we don't have a dining table, chairs or comfortable seats. Just this little old couch (above) that belongs on the set of "That '70s Show." So it's looking very minimal, and not in a good way.

What's your story?

I'm a lifelong Chicagoan! I work for a nonprofit housing agency, and we help families save their homes from foreclosure. My roommate works as a pattern maker and is working toward her goal of becoming a designer. Between the two of us we're hoping to make our desolated apartment a home and a creative outlet.



Wity do you deserve a makeover for your place?

Our poor apartment has been through a lotfrom being a living space to having dozens of shows and hosting couchsurfers from all over the world. We want our space to continue to foster community, whether it be by actually having couches in our living room or sharing a meal around a table. We promise to invite you over for dinner, and I'll make my friends play you music and have a show just for you.

» Missed your chance to vote? Take a video tour through Nancy's place at redeye chicago.com/myapartmentsucks. We'll check back in a few weeks after the makeover (new decor from Darvin Furniture, a design consultation with Dean Renaud of South Social & Home, house cleanings from MyClean) is complete!

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Chicago 4640 Clouds, cold











Lincoln Park Zoo will celebrate the second birthdays of two western lowland gorilla infants at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Regenstein Center for African Apes.



Tim Kelley (second from right) speaks to police as his bag is checked at the Grand Red Line station Thursday. JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

Bag checks draw mixed reviews

By Lisa Donovan and Tracy Swartz REDEVE

Nate Long was among dozens of commuters detoured on their way into the CTA Red Line's Grand stop Thursday morning: to have their bags checked for explosives.

Long, 24, was at the Near North Side station just before 9 a.m. when a Chicago police officer told him he had been randomly selected for the screening-part of a counterterrorism initiative launched this week at some of the CTA's 140-plus rail stations.

He agreed to the testing, walked to a screening table and plopped his bags down.

There, several officers greeted him and one swabbed the outside of at least one of his shopping bags. Officers are using a cloth swab to swipe the bags and then insert the cloth into an explosives-detection device.

Almost instantaneously, the test came back clear and Long was on his way.

"It only took a few seconds," Long, who's in town from Ann Arbor, Mich., told reporters after the testing.

He said he hadn't heard about the initiative but said "safety is always a positive thing."

But he wondered "why me?" when he was

approached for testing.

*I was concerned about how they choose each person," Long said.

Police were at the stop from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and said that every 30th person who walked into the station was asked to have their bags tested. Officers said they are only swabbing the exterior of the bags-not opening them up for examination, though that could happen if there's a problem.

Last month, police announced the rushhour screenings-which officially began Monday-and said most of them would take place at downtown stations.

"We can't get more specific about our deployment for obvious reasons," police spokesman Martin Maloney said in an email. "The implementation of this program has been efficient so far, and many people continue to express appreciation for CPD's presence."

Police made no arrests but one rider refused to submit to the screening and left the station without incident, Maloney said.

Police have swabbed the bags of about 200 riders since Monday, Maloney said.

Passengers can decline the screening, but will not be allowed to board a train at that



station. Riders can leave that station and board a train at a different station.

One rider, Tim Kelley, who agreed to have his bag screened griped, "What about the fourth amendment?"

Last week, Mayor Emanuel defended the screenings, saying, "The world is different," and, "We need to be constantly updating our safety and security."

While officials have declined to disclose the pricetag for the CTA security initiative. it is being fully funded with part of a \$3.5 million federal anti-terrorism grant.

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Aldermen add limos to street parking ban

Chicago Tribune

In the fight for precious parking in Chicago, aldermen have added limousines to the class of vehicles that aren't welcome on city streets.

The City Council passed a proposal spearheaded by Northwest Side Ald. Ray Suarez (31st) on Wednesday prohibiting limos, "whether for hire or not for hire," from parking "at any time" on either residential or business streets within city limits.

Limousines join taxis, trucks, vans, motor homes, trailers, semitrailers and recreational vehicles longer than 22 feet on the list of vehicles banned from parking on residential streets.

Taxis and vans are allowed to park on business streets under city ordinance.

EXPRESS LINES

- » A "suspicious package" left on a CTA bus Thursday on the Southwest Side that caused traffic reroutes for nearly two hours as Chicago police investigated turned out to be a student art project, police said.
- » A second man has been charged in an Orange Line robbery where two men allegedly held up a Loop-bound train car in July and robbed several people between the Halsted and Roosevelt CTA stations. Robert Weaver, 47, and Michael Taylor, 20, have been charged in the incidents.
- » Raekwon Franklin, 17, was ordered held in lieu of \$400,000 bail Thursday after he was charged as an adult with sexually assaulting two women along the lakefront running path in Hyde Park, police said. REDEYE, TRIBUNE

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GEDEYE PRESENT



A worker for Divvy bikes removes bikes near Union Station during rush hour, when there is ar influx of people docking bikes on their way home from work. Nuccio DINUZZIO/TRIBUNE FILE

Divvy workers move to join national union

By Rachel Cromidas | REDEYE

In the wake of a labor ruling that will allow New York City's bike-share workers to unionize, a group of workers for Chicago's Divvy bike-share program have filed union cards to join a national transportation workers union.

The group of 43 Divvy employees signed union cards that were filed with the National Labor Relations Board last week, and the board is slated to hold a hearing Monday to determine who will be able to join the union, according to Nick Bedell, an organizer with the Transportation Workers Union Local 100.

Bedell is spearheading the effort to unionize bike-share employees in Boston and the District of Columbia, and he said a national bikeshare employee union is also in the works.

"A union gives you a collective rather than individual voice to address issues on the job," he said. "For bike-share people, a lot of that is operational issues. There are problems in the way the systems are run, and the workers feel like they need to be partnered with management to develop how the work is done."

Alta Bicycle Share, the company that operates Divvy and bike-share programs in several other cities, employs full-time and seasonal workers who repair bikes, make sure there's a balance of bikes and empty parking slots among stations around the city, and maintain the stations, among other jobs, according to Nicole Cipri, a Divvy bike mechanic who is organizing the unionization effort.

By joining the union, Cipri, 29, of Pilsen, said Divvy employees would be able to use collective bargaining to standardize how their wages are set, how their schedules are set, how to earn promotions and how to dis-

cipline employees who, for example, show up late for work. She also noted that seasonal workers who work outside during the city's coldest months are not all equipped with the right jackets, boots and other gear.

Managers from Divvy and Alta Bicycle Share declined to comment Wednesday.

"It is a complicated and big operation that they're running," Cipri said. "The majority of workers at Divvy are part time or seasonal, with no benefits at all, and for a lot of us our wages are kind of stagnant."

Cipri, who said she makes just over \$12 an hour, said managers told her she would get a dollar raise this year, but instead gave her a raise of about 34 cents. Cipri said she would like to see the union tackle employee wages after it elects its leadership and begins collective bargaining with Alta managers. She thinks the unionization could benefit Alta, too.

"Most of us know the system better than management," she said. "We want to be able to do our jobs better and make the system more efficient in a lot of ways."

Companies typically frown on employee efforts to unionize because it is usually easier to make business decisions without an employee contract that requires union input, according to Michael LeRoy, a labor professor at the University of Illinois. He said that a national bike share union likely would make the process of expanding bike share in current cities and to new cities more complicated.

"Flexibility is key, the ability to unilaterally adapt, especially for a start-up where there's a lot of risk," he said. "It is, in any event, an impedance in the business plan."

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Court upholds gay marriage bans

A federal appeals court Thursday upheld gay marriage bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, reversing the trend in federal courts to strike down such bans and piling pressure on the Supreme Court to take up the matter.

The ruling by the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals is the first ruling by a federal appeals court upholding bans on same-sex marriage.

When the Supreme Court in October refused to intervene in the issue, all other appellate courts that had weighed in had struck down state bans on gay marriage. This new decision could force a showdown at the Supreme Court and lead to a nationwide ruling on the constitutionality of such bans.

Advocates on both sides of the issue immediately called for the Supreme Court to take up gay marriage and make a definitive decision for the entire country.

"We will be filing for Supreme Court review right away and hope that through this deeply disappointing ruling, we will be able to bring a uniform rule of equality to the entire country," the American Civil Liberties



Union said in a statement.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette applauded the ruling from the 6th Circuit court as a victory for Michigan's constitution.

"The U.S. Supreme Court will have the final word on this issue. The sooner they rule, the better, for Michigan and the country,"

Schuette said in a statement.

A string of rulings around the U.S. this year has expanded gay marriage to a total of more than 30 states, and same-sex couples have been getting marriage permits in a number of states where they had long been denied the right.

Facebook launches Ebola charity donation button

Facebook said users would now have the option to donate directly to various Ebola relief charities through a button at the top of their news feeds. Facebook users can donate to three charities—International Medical Corps. the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Save the Childrenthe company said on its website Thursday.

THE DIGIT 53 MILLION

That's how many more email addresses were taken during a recent breach of Home Depot's payment data systems, the world's largest home improvement chain said. In September, the company said some 56 million payment cards, including email details, likely were stolen in a cyberattack.

Boehner touts bills to repeal Obamacare, build Keystone

Republicans will use their new dominance of Congress to repeal or cut back President Obama's health care reforms, approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline and trim the nation's debt, House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said Thursday.



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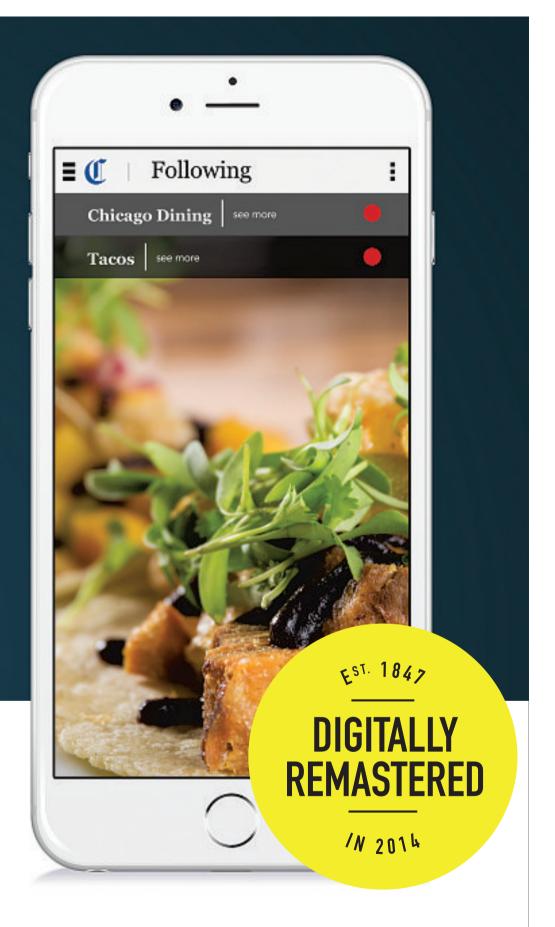
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Chicago Tribune



TASTEFOR CHESSES Earlier loss has Bears newbies seething before Packers game seething before Packers game

By Ernest Wilkins | REDEYE

While this year's sluggish start might leave Bears fans feeling apathetic going into Sunday's game against Green Bay, they should at least take solace in the fact that they're still participating in the oldest rivalry in professional football.

The Bears and Packers have been slugging it out since 1921, but some participants in this weekend's matchup will be experiencing the hostile territory of Lambeau Field for the first time in a Bears uniform. Some of the Bears have participated in big rivalry games in college and RedEye wanted to know: Does Bears-Packers feel like a huge game at your alma mater?

ERNEST WILKINS IS CHICAGO'S WINGMAN.



ALL EYES ON LAMBEAU

Kyle Fuller USA TODAY

NBC's coverage of Sunday night's game at Lambeau Field will mark the ninth straight year the Bears-Packers rivalry will be featured in prime time. That ties a NFL record set by Raiders-Chargers, who had their matchup in prime time each year from 1981-89.



Linebacker Christian Jones (rookie, Florida State)

"I go into every week with the same mentality. Personally, it does feel special not only as a rivalry game but also as a divisional game. The fans want to see us win this one and they already got one on us this year at our house, so we have to go get a win up there. That adds an energy to it as well."

Kyle Fuller

"Just going back to the history between the Packers and the Bears, I'm already looking forward to this game. A rivalry is a rivalry, be it college or the pros. Any game like this is going to have us locked in and I'm looking forward to it."



BEARS BRAIN TEASER

By Mick Swasko | REDEYE It's Week 10 of the Bears' season, and if Lamarr Houston has taught us anything, the team will use ANY excuse to celebrate.

So this week let's put an imaginary wager in place. The Bears and the Packers agree to host a party for the winning team at their own stadium and agree to pay the cost of the rentals.

How much cash would the Bears have to fork over to rent out Soldier Field's colonnades for a Packers party, and how much would the Pack owe to host a Bears victory party in their atrium? We'll assume the party happens on a weekend during the season.

Rules: Submit your answer by 10 p.m. Sunday via Twitter to @redeyesports chi (must follow him to quality). One guess per person. If multiple people submit the correct answer, the winner will be drawn at random.

At stake: A guest spot in Friday's Five on Five panel. We'll reveal the answer Monday. Good luck!

MSWASKO@TRIBUNE.COM I @SWASKO



With Matt Slauson (left) out for the game, player such as Jordan Mills (right) and Michael Ola are changing positions to help the offensive line. OHRISSWEDATRIBUNE FILE

Why do the Bears fear emotions?



SACKED AGAIN

Bag Boy * redeyesports@ tribune.com Some bad news to start the weekend.

The bye week is over for the Bears. Ah, that was so nice. A chance to reconnect with regular life. Food, breathing, people. The essentials.

That's over and I'm seeing some old trends reappear. Here's my favorite, a

holdover from the Lovie Smith years: the reshuffling of the offensive line.

Michael Ola to right tackle, Jordan Mills to left guard. If it looks like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic, it's because it is.

And here's another little gem: Marc Trestman says the support from the Bears is outstanding, Says everyone has been "compliant." Always makes me feel like he's an IRS agent, that Trestman.

Clearly Trestman is still new to America. Sure, coach. It's outstanding. To your face. But believe me, if there was a Joe Maddon for football and he were out there, the Bears would snag him.

Actually, check that. The Bears

wouldn't know the next great coach if he walked right into Halas Hall.

That's because he has already. Bruce Arians. Coach of the year in waiting. You could have had him, Phil Emery: Of course, he's a real human being with real emotions in the mold of a Halas or a Ditka, and of course we just can't have that around here!

That's OK. We'll take the accountants! Anyway, hats off to the Cubs. Got to say it. Maddon is going to be fun to watch, fun to cover. Although am I the only one concerned the guy was living at an RV park in Florida? I'm all for eccentricity but come on, couldn't be get a condo somewhere?

Well, he'll have to here. It's all fun now but here's a fun exercise: Imagine his farewell press conference. I wonder if he'll be buying shots then.

Anyway, please enjoy your Bulls while pondering that. I count roughly 10 guys on the team Thibs can rotate every night, not counting Tony Snell. And Jimmy Butler is one lean machine.

It's enough (almost) to make you forget Derrick Rose. Yes, Butler's more than a stopper.

So enjoy that while waiting for the Blackhawks to break out.

Man, it heats up in a hurry around here. BAGBOY IS A REDEVE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

fiveonfive

HI, SARA!

RedEye designer Sara Amato joins the panel. And she's got a great offer on a used quarterback for you.



Amato
@saamato
RedEye
designer/
loud persor



Alex Quigley @alexquipley WGN Radio



Jimmy Greenfield @cgreenx ChicagoNow community manager



Evan F. Moore @evantmoore RedEye contributor



Bag Boy redeverports @tribune.com Brown-bagged and furious

| Let's have your | Bears-Packers | |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
| prediction. | | |

35-17 Packers, because my fantasy team depends on it. It won't be as bad as the Patriots game! That's improvement! Packers lots, Bears a lot less.

Aaron Rodgers goes nuts. Like always. He's my fantasy QB. I have a vested interest, you could say. Aaron Rodgers is Aaron Rodgers while Jay Cutler is Jay Cutler. You know the rest.

If this is Briggs' last year as a Bear ~_(••)_/~

.. that's \$6.5M free to improve the defense. .. he'll be more productive for the Bears next year than he was this year. He admitted to not listening to the coaches. He's basically out the door already. Oh please. The guy quit when Lovie got fired.

Who will miss Patrick Sharp most while he recovers from injury? It's a lower body injury, so probably his right hand. People who own stock in the APSIAVHM hashtag. The loins of many women, and approximately 10 percent of the men. The ladies.

Joel Quenneville.

What's missing from the Blackhawks' new Winter Classic Jersey? TGI Friday's flair pins.

I would've loved to see lasers on the shoulders.

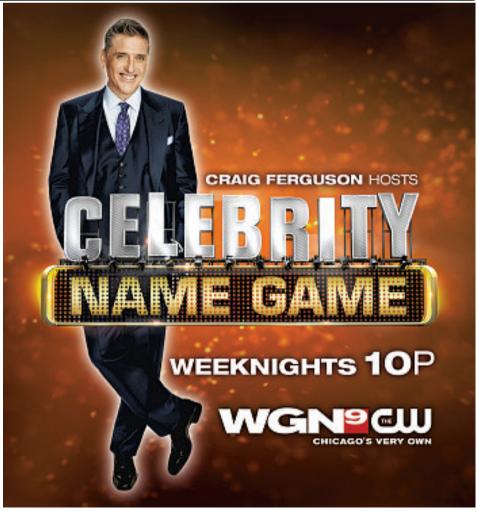
A built-in microwave. I mean, that's just expected to come standard now. Our city flag of course. Show some pride! My name on the back, number "0." Send it to Trib Tower, Blackhawks.

If you flew a sign over a football game this weekend, what would it say?

"For Sale: Jay Cutler, \$1 OBO."

"NORTHWESTERN VS MICHIGAN: WHY ARE ANY OF YOU HERE?" "EMILY, WILL YOU MARRY ME?" "R.I.P. Bobby Munson. #SAMCRO" Over Lambeau. "Aaron is a girl's name."







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JRW's White House victory lap

Chicago Tribune

When Little League volunteer Bill Haley found out his players were going to the White House, he knew they would finally understand a message he had been trying to share all year long.

"The big thing for the kids is the idea that their circumstances don't determine their ceiling," Haley said. "They are the best in the United States. These kids—really humble kids—are the best in the United States."

The first family paid them tribute Thursday, as President Obama and first lady Mi-

chelle Obama gave a White House welcome to the players of Jackie Robinson West, who brought both pride and a national Little League championship to Chicago's oftenstruggling Far South Side.

The president posed for photos with the 13 players, and the team toured the White House dressed in their gold and blue jerseys and ties.

Marquis Jackson, 13, said when he found out he was going to the White House, he knew what he wanted to ask Obama.

"I told the president I wanted to face him in basketball," Jackson said.



THE DIGIT 3-4

That's how long Blackhawks forward Patrick Sharp is expected to be out with an injured right leg, coach Joel Quenneville said Thursday. The team recalled forward Peter Regin to take Sharp's place on the roster.

We won't have him long. We'll have him this year and then he'll be one of the top [NBA] picks."

–Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, on freshman center and former Whitney Young star Jahlil Okafor

One powerful pair

Silver linings keep appearing for the White Sox despite a forgettable season. First baseman Jose Abreu and shortstop Alexei Ramirez have were named American League Silver Slugger award winners Thursday. The award is the first for Abreu and second for Ramirez (also 2010).





FALL'S FINEST COCKTAILS ARE ALL ABOUT THE SURPRISES, FROM MARSHMALLOWS TO MALORT

By Kate Bernot | REDEYE

There are a few reliable ingredients we expect to see on cocktail menus each fall: a preponderance of darker spirits like bourbon and cognac, plus baking spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg. This season, though, Chicago bartenders upped the ante on their new menus and reached for ingredients from the kitchen, including popcorn, marshmallows and pumpkin seeds. Whether sweet or savory, classic riffs or totally original creations, these drinks are the alcoholic equivalent of kicking a pile of crunchy leaves. KBERNOT@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEEATDRINK

DA CHICAGO (\$13) AT MOTT ST.

1401 N. Ashland Ave. 773-687-9977

One of bartender Davis Cox's favorite cocktails, a classic New Orleans drink called the De La Louisiane, sold so well at Mott St. that Cox wanted to create a fall cocktail that mirrored its herbaceous, slightly sweet flavors. And he wanted it to feel Chicago-centric. So Cox swapped the De La Louisiane's rye base for cognac, to which he adds suze and made-

in-Chicago Letherbee besk, both bitter liqueurs that mimic absinthe's role in the De La Louisiane cocktail. A bit of China China—a liqueur made from orange peels—adds brown sugar and orange flavors before the drink is finished with Peychaud's bitters. But the cocktail needed one last bit of Chicago cred if it was going to live up to its name. "One of our bartenders, Mike, said, 'Wouldn't it be funny to do a Garrett's popcorn garnish?' It sounded

a little weird at first, but it happens to work incredibly well with the cocktail. It's still fun and serves a purpose."

DEHUMANIZER (\$10) AT CHARLATAN

1329 W. Chicago Ave. 312-818-2073

Head bartender Alex Gara's cocktails at this weeks-old West Town spot mirror chef Matt Troost's Italian dishes: approachable, but with thoughtful ingredients. Gara said he's been most surprised by the success of the Dehumanizer, a spirits-forward (quite literally, since there are no juices or mixers in the glass) combination of rye, dark rum, amaro Montenegro, Angostura bitters, grapefruit bitters and grapefruit oil. "It's not going for anything aesthetic. There's no garnish," Gara said. "It's got that rock 'n' roll in there, though. And we're selling hundreds of them a week." It's a fittingly no-nonsense, serious fall sipper with a bit of an Italian flair from the amaro, and Gara promised that while other cocktails might rotate off the menu, this one's here to stay.

LIL PUMPKIN (\$9) AT TWO

1132 W. Grand Ave. 312-624-8363

Head bartender Graham Crowe worked closely with the restaurant's kitchen to create this frothy, spiced pumpkin cocktail. He heats pumpkin puree with cloves, maple syrup, anise and allspice—imagine how delicious that smells—and strains it to create a syrup, then shakes it with 8-year-aged Colombian rum, sweet vermouth and an egg white to create a fluffy, almost whipped texture. He garnishes it with cranberry bitters and a few small candied pumpkin seeds. The overall flavor? "Like pumpkin pie in a glass," Crowe said.

LOGAN SQUARE IS EVERYWHERE (\$10) AT MARIA'S PACKAGED GOODS & COMMUNITY BAR

960 W. 31st St. 773-890-0588

While Jeppson's malort might be a familiar sight behind the bars in Logan Square, head bartender Ken Zawacki said, it's still an acquired taste for most. Using malort in place of Campari in this on-draft negroni riff, Zawacki is able to introduce drinkers to the bitter spirit in a palatable way. Simply put, "We're trying to serve malort in a tasty way," he said.

CORNBREAD MOON (\$10) AT HENRY'S SWING CLUB

18 W. Hubbard St. 312-955-8018

Taking its name from the title of a Joe Ely song about fall's arrival, this carbonated, autumnal draft cocktail begins with a bourbon base to which beverage director Michael Rubel adds bourbon barrel-aged maple syrup, lemon and allspice dram. The most expensive ingredient in the cocktail actually is the maple syrup, but Rubel said there's no substitution for it. "It has tremendous resonance and depth to it," Rubel said. "It's been my go-to for years." Sip this one slowly and notice how the allspice dram draws out latent spice in the bourbon.

AMAIZE (\$13) AT ACADIA

1639 S. Wabash Ave. 312-360-9500

The list of ingredients in the South Loop restaurant's cocktail is a bit of head-scratcher:

smoked corn- and achiote-infused tequila, champagne vinegar, cilantro, popcorn syrup, lime juice and Kix cereal-coconut milk foam. But bartender Arunas Bruzas has no trouble reassuring skeptics: "It's interesting how the lines are blurring between food and drinks. This drink is a good balance between savory, sweetness, acidity. All those bases are pretty much covered," he said. "There is even that umami sensation, which gets me really excited about the cocktail." The corn-and-tequila combination is inspired by the region of southwest Mexico where maize or corn was originally domesticated; that area is just a short trip from Jalisco, where most tequila is produced. "It's like that saying, 'If it grows together, it goes together," Bruzas said.

PUMPKIN-HEAD (\$10) AT CHOP SHOP

2033 W. North Ave. 773-537-4440

Most of the components of this marshmallow-garnished pumpkin cocktail are made in-house, from the vanilla-, nutmeg-, coriander-, ginger-spiced autumn syrup to the vodka infused with Madagascar vanilla beans. This moderately sweet cocktail already is a popular after-dinner sipper, picking up fall flavors from pumpkin puree, hazelnut liqueur, pumpkin liqueur and half and half. A smoking, still-warm marshmallow completes the drink ... though beverage director Dan De Los Monteros said he can leave off this gooey garnish upon request. "It's more popular with the females, but I see guys taking sips of their dates' drinks and then they're like, 'Hey, can I get one of those in a rocks glass, but hold the marshmallow."

ICHABOD CRANIUM (\$100) AT BILLY SUNDAY

3143 W. Logan Blvd. 773-661-2485

"I've personally always had an affinity for using organic things as serving vessels," said beverage director Alex Bachman, explaining his decision to use a pumpkin as the serving piece for this group cocktail. "Plus, flaming cocktails are big. It's a dramatic presentation that people respond to." Right-did we mention the pumpkin's on fire? Inside this flaming gourd, Bachman's mixed a slushy combination of frozen bourbon, some sugars, orange peel, cinnamon and vanilla, to which he adds egg, applejack, vermouth, lemon juice, sherry and an entire bottle of hard apple cider. With more than three shakers' worth of cocktail inside, this pumpkin easily can serve four to eight people. Worried about fire hazards? The staff promises to ladle the drink into cups for you.

STAR DAISY (\$13) AT PARIS CLUB BISTRO & BAR

59 W. Hubbard 312-595-0800

Cocktail director Paul McGee completely revamped the menu at the swank, Frenchinspired River North bar, which also saw a physical facelift this fall. Tucked between classics including fizzes, flips, Collins and royales, you'll find the Star Daisy, a cool weather number that combines gin with 7½-year aged apple brandy, dry orange curacao and lemon juice. Elegant and simple, it's a great aperitif before a dinner of rich French fare.









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It's true, Wicker Park has plenty of taco options within stumbling distance of Six Corners-Antique Taco, Big Star, Flash Taco-but it now has another, a bit farther down Milwaukee Avenue thanks to this gourmet-inspired taqueria. A dozen choices range from the Baja (beer-battered mahi mahi with chipotle coleslaw and pineapple-tamarind sauce) to the Chicano (grilled octopus, avocado and cactus leaf).



Leghorn Cafe

600 N. LaSalle Drive 312-944-4444

This River North outpost of the Ukrainian Village fried chicken sandwich shop opened Tuesday in all of its crispy-skinned glory. In addition to serving the same lineup of sandwiches as the original, you can also order biscuit breakfast sandwiches and tall cups of Stumptown coffee.

Shake Shack

66 E. Ohio St. 312-667-1701

Chicago is going crazy for this East Coast import, which drew a line down the block at its new River North location on opening day. If you're there just for custard (in the form of a milkshake, concrete or cone), head to the C-Line to skip the wait with the rest of the burger-eating masses.

SmallBar

2049 W. Division St. 773-772-2727

This is your last weekend to raise a pint to this Wicker Park craft beer bar, which closes its doors Nov. 13. The draft and battled beer list continues to impress, plus the bar has a focus on locally made beers and a better-than-it-has-any-rightto-be food menu.

Trophy Room

170 W. Ontario St. 312-600-6920

River North has a new spot for sports viewing and pizza snacking. This weeksold bar is outfitted with two 90-inch TVs and 35 smaller screens tucked between works from local artists on the walls. Choose from 17 different pizzas baked in the wood-fired oven while checking out the menu of 16 draft beers plus 24 macro and craft options in bottles and cans.





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This 'Hero' defeats itself



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

There's a hilarious sequence in "Big Hero 6" in which Baymax (voiced by Scott Adsit), a walking, talking personal health care companion who looks like the offspring of the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man and a body pillow, becomes low on battery. The result is that he appears sluggish and, well,

drunk, slurring his words and going from a graceful, huggable technological achievement to a stumbling buffoon.

How sad that Disney's latest animated effort eventually makes a similar transition, morphing from a smart, endearing endorsement of intellectual ambition to a messy spectacle that's run out of juice.

The movie does start well, despite opening similarly to "Real Steel": 14-year-old hoodie enthusiast Hiro (Ryan Potter), who graduated from high school at 13, entertains himself by hustling opponents in underground robot battles where gadgets, controlled by their inventors, try to knock each other's blocks off. Hiro's brother Tadashi (Daniel Henney), Baymax's creator, persuades Hiro to bring his talents to the San Fransokyo Institute of Technology—the film takes place in a Japanese-inspired version of San Francisco where the boy's tryout project earns raves but ends in tragedy.



Directors Don Hall (2011's lovely "Winnie the Pooh") and Chris Williams ("Bolt") adapted "Big Hero 6" from a Marvel Comics series, and there's the problem. What flirts with a sensitive discussion about coping with trauma and developing a support system ultimately becomes yet another loud story about how all kids totally want to be superheroes. (Which didn't happen in 2012's "Robot and Frank.") Notions of emotional support dissolve next to physical abilities, with Baymax's doubts about why karate or flying would make him a better companion alleviated by movie's end.

The animation is gorgeous, however, with laughs that somewhat balance out the predictable development of a super-villain whose motive and behavior don't hold up. Voicing thin characters, the supporting cast (including Jamie Chung, T.J. "Comic Relief" Miller, Genesis Rodriguez and Damon Wayans Jr., the latter most recognizable when shrieking) sounds like it's having fun.

But "Big Hero 6" sacrifices book smarts for street smarts instead of balancing both, giving itself a chance to advocate for a different kind of hero only to side with the crime fighter. When you demonstrate that a kid doesn't have to feel physical pain to be hurting, it's a cop-out to suggest soaring through the air like "Iron Man" counts more than getting a hug.



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■John Wick (R) 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15
■John Wick (R) 10:00
■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ ₱ 12:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:45, 11:20

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The Equalizer (R) B 10:25, 7:15, 10:25

Big Hero 6 (PG) * B 10:15, 1:00, 1:30, 3:45, 4:15, 6:45, 8:25, 9:35

Ouija (PG-13) B 11:10, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:15

■The Book of Life (PG) £ 10:40, 3:50, 9:00

erstellar (PG-13) * £ 11:45, 2:20, 5:45, 8:30, 9:30

■Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG) D

■Dracula Untold (PG-13) £ 11:55, 3:20, 6:05, 7:35, 11:00

■Gone Girl (R) D 10:00, 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 10:00
■The Book of Life 3D (PG) 1:25, 6:20
■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ D 11:15, 12:00, 2:00, 2:45, 4:50, 5:30, 7:30, 11:00

■AMC Independent Nightcrawler (R) ★ ₱ 11:25, 2:25, 5:15, 8:00, 10:50 ■John Wick (R) 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40, 10:45 ■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:05, 10:45, 12:45, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45,

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628

Iman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) 12:10, 2:30, 5:00,

■The Boxtrolls (PG) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

Fury (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 Gone Girl (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Kill the Messenger (R) 6:00, 8:15

■Kill the Messenger (R) 6:00, 8:15
■The Last Starfighter (PG) 10:30

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

888-AMC-AFIIN

888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
Big Hero 6 (PG) ★ D 10-40, 12:35, 1:30, 4:15, 6:00, 9:15, 10:00, 11:30

■ Uija (PG-13) D 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:05
■ The Book of Life (PG) D 1:235, 5:45
■ AMC Independent Whiplash (P) D 10:00, 3:40, 6:15, 9:00
■ The Maze Runner (PG-13) D 11:20
■ The Budge (R) D 12:30
■ The Judge (R) D 12:30
■ The Judge (R) D 12:30
■ The Judge (R) D 12:30
■ AMC Independent D 1:15, 12:15, 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7:20, 9:45, 10:50
■ AMC Independent D 1:15, 12:15, 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7:20, 9:45, 10:45
■ The Book of Life 3D (PG) 10:10, 3:00, 8:15
■ AMC Independent Low Down (R) ▶ D 10:45, 1

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ £ 10:00, 11:15, 11:45, 2:00, 3:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:45

■Fury (R) £ 12:00, 3:30, 6:40, 10:00 ■AMC Independent Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) £

10:10, 11:00, 1:10, 3:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:15, 10:15

■AMC Independent Nightcrawler (R) ₱ 10:35, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 10:00, 11:30

■AMC Independent Glen Campbell... I'll Be Me (PG) ★ ₱ 11:00, 2:30, 5:15,

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago

(773) 871-6604

■1.000 Times Good Night (NR) 4:30, 7:00

■Listen Up Philip (NR) 2:00

■The Great Invisible (PG-13) 4:45 0:45

■Raiders of the Lost Ark (PG) 9:45

■Watchers of the Sky (NR) 2:00 7:00

■Dumb and Dumber (PG-13) 11:59

■Onen Windows (NR) 11:59

■Watchers of the Sky (NR) 7:00

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309

■Big Hero 6 (PG) ★ Ð 10:15, 11:45, 1:00, 2:30, 3:45, 5:15, 6:30, 8:00, 9:15, 10:45

■Ouiia (PG-13) f) 10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

■The Book of Life (PG) £ 12:25, 5:20, 10:20

■The Maze Runner (PG-13) £ 10:20, 3:20

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ Ð 12:45, 4:30, 6:00, 8:15, 9:45, 12:00

■Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) ★ £ 12:00, 3:45, 7:30, 11:15 ■Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG) Đ 11:10 1:30 3:40 5:50 8:00

■Dracula Untold (PG-13) Đ 1:00, 10:15

■Gone Girl (R) Ð 10:10, 12:40, 4:00, 7:20, 10:50 ■AMC Independent Laggies (R) ★ £ 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

■The Book of Life 3D (PG) 10:00, 2:50, 7:45

■AMC Independent St. Vincent (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:40. 4:15.

■Bia Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ £ 11:00, 12:30, 1:45, 3:15, 4:30, 6:00, 7:15, 8:45.

■Fury (B) f) 10:50, 2:00, 5:05, 8:10, 11:15

■AMC Independent Nightcrawler (R) ★ ₱ 11:20, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40 ■John Wick (R) (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:00, 11:15, 1:30, 3:00, 5:15, 6:45, 9:00, 10:30

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 12:00, 12:50, 2:40, 3:40 4:40 6:20 7:20 8:20 10:00 10:40 11:00 11:30

■Big Hero 6 (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 4:30, 7:00 ■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:50, 9:40

■Nightcrawler (R) (Closed caption) 10:05, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 11:50

■John Wick (R) (Closed caption) 10:15, 1:35, 4:05, 6:40, 9:10, 11:40 ■St. Vincent (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:20, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

■Fury (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:35

■Gone Girl (R) ★ (Closed caption) 10:10, 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

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■The Book of Life (PG) £ 11:45. 5:00

■The Maze Runner (PG-13) D 10:30

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ £ 10:00, 2:00, 6:00, 9:00, 10:00 ■Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

(PG) * £ 10:10, 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20 ■Dracula Untold (PG-13) ★ f) 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

■Addicted (R) ★ £ 9:30

■The Book of Life 3D (PG) 2:30, 7:35

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ £ 1:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) £ 11:30, 5:30

■On Any Sunday: The Next Chapter (PG) £ 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10 9:25

■AMC Independent Nightcrawler (R) ★ £ 10:00, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

■Annabelle (R) £ 10:45, 1:15, 4:00, 6:30

■John Wick (B) ★ ft 11:30, 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00 ■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ Ð 11:00, 12:00, 3:00, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago

(312) 564-2104 ■The Book of Life 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 1:40, 9:10

■Big Hero 6 (PG) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 4:00, 9:20 ■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00 ■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:20, 6:40

■Ouija (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40 ■The Equalizer (R) (Closed caption) 7:50, 11:00

■Big Hero 6 (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:10, 11:10, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30.

■The Book of Life (PG) (Closed caption) 10:45, 4:10, 6:45 ■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:20, 11:20, 2:10, 3:10, 6:00. 7:00. 9:45. 10:45

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:00, 3:40, 7:30, 11:15

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ 10:50, 2:40, 6:30, 10:15 ■Fury (R) (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:10, 4:20, 7:40, 10:50 ■Gone Girl (R) (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:00, 6:20, 7:10, 9:40, 10:30

■John Wick (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20 ■Nightcrawler (R) ★ (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10 \blacksquare Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) \star (Closed

caption) 10:15, 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50 ■Dear White People (R) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 VIP Premium 21+

■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) VIP Premium 21+ 10:20, 11:20 2:10. 3:10. 6:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:45

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

(800) 326-3264 #1644

■Big Hero 6 (PG) ★ ₱ 5:30 ■Bia Hero 6 (PG) ★ ₱ 10:00, 11:30, 12:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30

■big hero (rC-13) ₱ 10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:25
■The Book of Life (PG) ₱ 10:20, 11:05, 1:50, 3:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
■Interstellar (PG-13) ★ ₱ 12:45, 4:30, 8:30

MARKETING LA

■Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day PG) f) 10:10, 3:05, 5:25

■ Dracula Untold (PG-13) ₱ 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10 ■ The Book of Life 3D (PG) 1:00

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ £ 2:55

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ £ 10:40, 11:55, 1:30, 4:20, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15,

■Fury (R) ₱ 11:40, 2:50, 6:20, 9:40 ■AMC Independent Nightcrawler (R) ★ ₱ 11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:35 ■Annabelle (R) £ 7:40, 10:15

■John Wick (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:40 ■Interstellar (PG-13) Ð 10:00, 11:00, 1:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:00, 9:15, 10:00

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park (630) 444-FILM #560 | Big Hero 6 (FG) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:10, 7:00, 9:25 | The Book of Life (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 | Gone Girl (R) (Closed caption) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

■St. Vincent (PG-13) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 4:35 man or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) 11:45, 2:20,

4:55, 7:30, 10:05

Interstellar (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 1:00, 3:25, 4:25, 6:50, 7:50, 10:15

EVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 Maple Ave., Evanstor (847) 492-0123 &

■St. Vincent (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

■Laggies (R) D 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20
■Gone Girl (R) D (lossed caption) 12:30, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20
■Whiplash (R) D (lossed caption) 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30
■The Book of Life (PG) D (Closed caption) 2:15, 7:15

■The Book of Life 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 11:45, 4:40

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) D (Closed caption) 11:05, 155, 3:15, 4:45, 6:10, 7:35, 9:00, 10:25

**Ouija (PG-13) B (Closed caption) 9:40

**Big Hero 6 (PG) D (Closed caption) 10:50, 12:25, 3:00, 4:05, 5:35, 8:15,

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) 11:30, 1:25, 2:10, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 10:10 ■Interstellar (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:40, 3:20, 7:00, 10:40 ■Interstellar (PG-13) € (Closed caption) 10:45, 12:50, 2:25, 4:30, 6:05,

■Fury (R) Ð (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:55. 7:20. 10:25

■ Rightcrawfer (B) D (Closed caption) 12:10, 37, 220, 10:25 ■ Nightcrawfer (B) D (Closed caption) 11:00, 12:20, 1:45, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35 ■ John Wick (R) D (Closed caption) 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:45 ■ Dear White People (R) D (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:50, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15 ■ Citizenfour (R) D 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50



movies

A Kristen Stewart movie you'll want to see. Really.

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

Making a movie about the imperfect circumstances—to put it mildly—at Guantanamo Bay is a bit like shooting fish in a barrel. Even those with minimal information

about the controversial prison probably don't presume every detainee deserved to be there or that every soldier supported everything that happened within its walls.

Still, "Camp X-Ray" effectively dramatizes a situation with the possibility to cause frustration for those both inside and outside the cells. At first, Private Cole (Kristen Stewart, really good) follows Corporal Ransdell's (Lane Garrison) directive: Give detainees, who are not to be referred to as prisoners so they're not subject to the Geneva Convention, no opportunity to get to know the soldiers who are there only to keep them alive. "They will test you, and they will best you," says Ransdell, who's usually not that poetic. But treating everyone coldly doesn't suit Cole, particularly as she develops a rapport with Harry Potter aficionado Ali (equally good Peyman Moaadi). He calls her "Blondie" despite her brown hair. He introduces her to the concept of a "[bleep] cocktail" (gross). He also demonstrates that he's only a danger to others if he's treated, and in effect made to act, like an animal.

First-time feature writer/director Peter Sattler allows one detainee to overshadow the others, skewing the complexity of post-9/11 fear and racial profiling. Stewart's Cole is strong enough to fend for herself but nervous and unsure how to handle progressively conflicting impulses. At a party with her mostly male colleagues, the sexual expecta-





tion is undeniable. Later, Cole's pressured into breaking protocol by choosing between being a soldier and "a female soldier." Sattler doesn't overplay this tension; like the lack of understanding that makes both soldiers and detainees question what's being accomplished, the filmmaker acknowledges conflict without turning it into melodrama.

The real world can't be reduced to heroes and villains, an inconvenience when it comes to national security, military operations and everyday life. No one in "Camp X-Ray" is a saint. The film isn't always convincing and won't be considered an expose, but that doesn't appear to be the intent. The goal is a humanitarian curiosity about what it could be like for these particular people to be stuck there, only some of whom have any hope of leaving.

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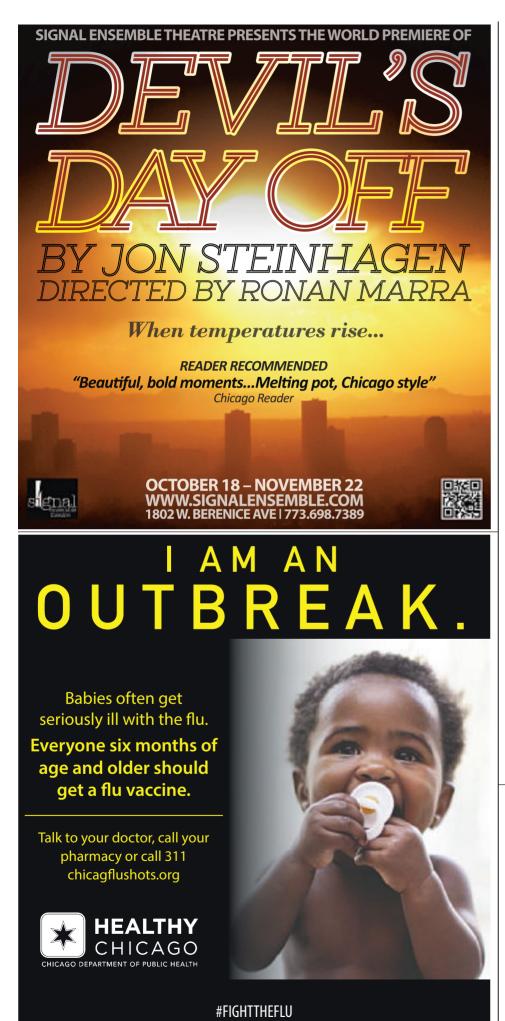
EVENING COMMUTE:Nik Wallenda on the wire

BOB ODENKIRK: Master of silly



redeyechicago.com/weekly





Creepy, depressing and cliched on many levels

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

Change the tone, the star, the director, the script and the story, and "Laggies" might have something to say about making difficult decisions in pursuit of happiness.

As is, this dramedy—which is more awkward than it means to be and not even close to as uncomfortable as it should be-feebly attempts to drive on four flat tires. While her high-school BFFs have successfully transitioned into adulthood, 28-year-old Megan (Keira Knightley) advertises her dad's (Jeff Garlin) company, spinning a sign on a street corner because she feels unqualified to turn her graduate degree into a profession. When her longtime boyfriend (Mark Webber) proposes, Megan accepts somewhat indifferently but totally loses it. Soon she says she's spending a week at a personal development seminar but really hides out in the house of 16-year-old Annika (Chloe Grace Moretz), whom she met when Annika and her friends, hoping Megan will buy them beer, claim, "We can hardly believe this, but we all forgot our IDs." It's one of the movie's only good lines.

First-time writer Andrea Seigel and slumping director Lynn Shelton ("Touchy Feely," "Humpday") might have played this scenario with the demented shame of the little-seen "Bachelorette" or the "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" episode in which the gang hangs out with teenagers. Instead, "Laggies" has an annoying, failed sitcom-esque pep to it amid pathetically stale scenes like Megan pretending to be Annika's mom at a parent-teacher conference, literally stolen from about 25 sitcoms including "Saved by the Bell."





Meanwhile, the miscast Knightley struggles to find something likable, rather than just sad, in Megan. Especially when Annika's single dad (Sam Rockwell, way too good for this), sigh, of course, starts to look at his daughter's friend not as an adult weirdly hanging out with a teenager but a pretty, available (so he thinks) woman conveniently living in his house. Megan's character isn't as poorly conceived as Paula Patton's in the horrendous "Baggage Claim," but it's close.

This Seattle-set movie appropriately has music by Ben Gibbard, though this only is noticeable in the opening sequence when "Such Great Heights" (by The Postal Service) plays during Megan's prom. Certainly there's merit in exploring loneliness and lack of direction at any age, with a longing for happier times. But lines like "You can't keep putting aside what you want for some imaginary future" don't pass for insight. Rather than a shot of tough love, "Laggies" piles on cliches until you're choking on them.

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movies

You'll want to lie down

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

Apparently Flea can play the trumpet.

That's the only worthwhile observation gathered from "Low Down," a drama that doesn't

identify itself as being based on a true story until it's over but wouldn't have gained much from saying so at the beginning. There are snoozes and there are snoozes—this one is potent enough to require a prescription.

Adapted by co-writer Amy-Jo Albany from her memoir, "Low Down" stars Elle Fanning as Amy, a teenager in 1974 Hollywood who adores her dad, Joe (John Hawkes), despite his drug habit and near-total lack of reliability. Supposedly Charlie Parker once called Joe a great jazz pianist, but seeing as Bird died nearly 20 years earlier, it's safe to assume Amy's dad, who barely has a dime to his name, hasn't achieved much since. Occasionally he plays with his pal Hobbs (Flea), but any past ambition has cooled. Amy's boozing mom (Lena Headey) offers even less in the guidance department.

Where the likewise jazz-focused "Whiplash" offered almost exclusively rich characterizations, "Low Down" is the opposite meandering around generic situations as if the fact that some version of this really happened automatically makes Jeff Preiss' lethargic direction worthwhile. At least the dull, kinda jazzy "On the Road" attempted a creative spark; "Low Down," like its characters, mostly sits around, letting time pass. It's a movie with nowhere to go, in no rush to get there.

Perhaps the fine-but-stifled performances and a few, assumably autobiographical details are intended to compensate. Amy briefly befriends a neighbor (Peter Dinklage), inappropriately kisses him and soon discovers he





appears in adult films. She later dates Cole (Caleb Landry Jones of "X-Men: First Class"), who suffers from epileptic seizures. A neighbor (Taryn Manning) dies from an overdose.

Yet "Low Down" feels like someone asking to tell you a five-minute story and then droning on for two hours. No kidding, kids need parental care. Amy's grandma (Glenn Close) helps, but not enough. Had there been a sense of how Amy's future was shaped by everything we see, this movie could have been a child's perspective on addiction and breaking the cycle. Instead it's an endless series of momentum-free moments, signifying and leading to nothing.

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Field Report

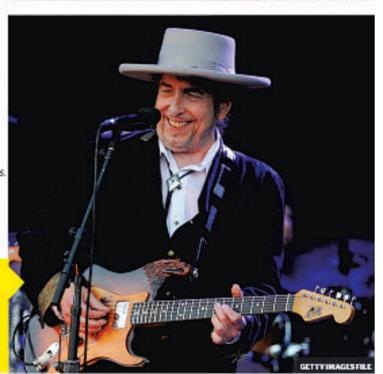
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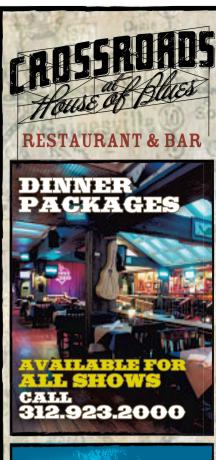
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Am I a high-priced booty call?



dating

Anna Pulley

Dear Anna, Eve had a standing weekday date with a guy for the past eight weeks. The first three dates were causal drinks and the last five were dinner, then back to his place. Everything seems great-great food, sex and conversation-but I'm starting to get the booty-call vibe from him. We chat sporadically during the week via text, but nothing of

particular substance. There hasn't really been a mention of feelings or wanting to see each other more. I tried to approach the subject and he commented on our incompatible schedules. There's also an eight-year age gap between us. Is the age difference playing a factor here, or am I turning into a high-priced booty call? -Anon

Dear Anon.

I don't know if I'd go so far as to label it a "booty call" arrangement, but it does seem hella casual and as if he has no big desire to change that dynamic. Unless he's an on-call doctor or a really important drug dealer, "incompatible schedules" is basically another way of saying, "I'm dating other people and don't have time to bone you with more regularity." Soooo, the real question is: Do you want the dynamic to change? If you're not too keen on the once-a-week-sex-with-no-commitments thang, it might be time to move on to greener pastures. If, however, you're fine with it being mostly casual but don't want to feel like just a booty call, make an occasional date with him that won't turn sexy, e.g. a lunch date or a "Roseanne" marathon. If he balks at the idea of spending time with you in a setting that won't lead to Bonerville, then consider vourself booty-called and hang up.

Dear Anna,

How do I convince my boyfriend that my bisexuality is real even though I'm dating a man? -Frustrated

Dear Frustrated.

Break up with him. Start dating his sister,



mom and all of his female friends. Document your adventures with these ladies and post the most scintillating pictures and video footage to your social media networks, making sure to tag him with the caption, "Who's real now, bee-otch?!"

If that's too much effort, then just break up with him. People who think that bisexuality is not a real sexual orientation or that bisexuals

in monogamous relationships magically lose their identities or pasts don't deserve to get laid with any kind of consistency. Date someone who accepts you for who you are, no questions asked-and, more importantly, no accusations. WANT TO ASK ANNA AN ANONYMOUS QUESTION ABOUT LOVE, SEX OR DATING? EMAIL YOUR QUANDARY TO REDEVEDATING/GOMAIL COM NEED TO GIVE YOUR DATING LIFE A BOOST? SIGN UP FOR REDEVE DATING.



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THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1944: President Franklin Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Thomas Dewev.

1991: Pro basketball star Magic Johnson stunned the country by announcing he had tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS and was retiring from the sport.

1999: Tiger Woods became the first golfer since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win four straight tournaments.

- Defective product
 Audible breaths of relief
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 Dollar bills

- Thief Guitar of old
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red hot

In a galaxy not so far away...

We don't have to call it "the new 'Star Wars' movie" anymore! Walt Disney pictures announced Thursday that "Episode VII" officially will be titled "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." Badassi Principal photography also has been completed on the J.J. Abrams-directed flick, which hits theaters Dec. 18, 2015, which means there's only, oh, a bazillion hours of special-effects work left to do.



Running with the stars

Natalie Dormer isn't just lounging around eating grapes when she's not filming "Game of Thrones." The newly-minted "Hunger Games" star told Flare magazine that she ran the London marathon in 3 hours, 50 minutes earlier this year. "When you're in the public eye, it's hard to negotiate your relationship with your body," she said. "But the way I look at it is: if I can run 26 miles in under four hours, then there's nothing wrong with my body." We'd be more than OK with that time. Natalie!

American woman?

Cara Delevingne is bringing her accent across the pond. The British model recently landed the lead in the adaptation of John Green's "Paper Towns," and was practicing her American accent on the red carpet for a Topshop VIP dinner Wednesday. "It's better when I have a few drinks, I'm sure," she told E! News. Really, Cara? That's when our most ridiculous accents come out.



THE DIGIT



"Downton Abbey" has been renewed for a sixth season, PBS announced Thursday, Season 5 begins airing in the U.S. on Jan. 4, and surely will bring with it many snooty gazes from the Dowager Countess.



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THE QUOTE

"I was always thinking that people didn't like me, they just hated me ... it's such a ridiculous notion, we tend to do this to ourselves."

 Jennifer Lopez, to El News, on struggling with her selfesteem. Fan mail can't flx everything, we guess.

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